



Cleanup of Elk superfund site 'about 20 percent' complete, says EPA

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Representatives from Kemron Environmental Services move drums to be shipped off-site for proper disposal from the Superior Barrel and Drum site in Elk Township, Tuesday, March 31, 2014. (Staff Photo by Tim Hawk/South Jersey Times)

Phil Davis/South Jersey Times By **Phil Davis/South Jersey Times**

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ELK TWP. — Officials working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are continuing to move containers of hazardous materials from the former Superior Barrel & Drum Company as part of a project that was slated to see completion by April.

In September, **the EPA announced that the 5.5-acre site situated on Jacob Harris Avenue had thousands of 55-gallon barrels and containers leaking potentially dangerous chemicals**, including benzene and lead, which can cause cancer and developmental issues in children.

After originally being denied access to the site by the company's owner, Thomas H. Toy, EPA investigators obtained a federal warrant with the aid of New Jersey U.S. Attorney Paul Fishman to investigate the site and declared it an official New Jersey Superfund site.

According to EPA on-scene coordinator Margaret Gregor, the agency shipped out 54 overpacked drums of flammable or corrosive liquids and sludges to be properly disposed of at an off-site location earlier this week.

She added that the EPA has shipped more than 37,000 gallons of hazardous material to be disposed of off-site, which accounts for approximately 20 percent of the site's overall cleanup.

Toy is still being sought by both the EPA and officials from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to pay for the cleanup for the site.

Judith Enck, the Regional Administrator for Region 2 of the EPA, which monitors areas in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, said the agency expects the cleanup to cost at least \$1 million.

Contact staff writer **Phil Davis** at **856-686-3631** or **pdavis@southjerseymedia.com**

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